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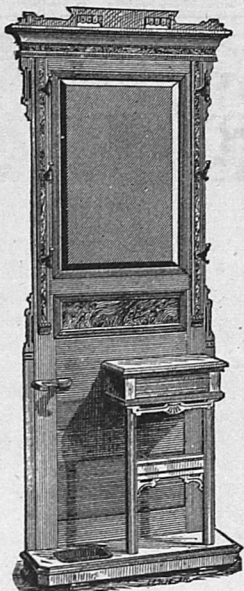
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OPINIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEALERS.

Furniture.—A. LOWENBEIN'S SONS, although they have a large quantity of ebony and ebonized furniture in stock, say that this wood and its imitation has lost much in popularity, and is not considered at all fashionable. Amaranth and white holly although there is some little demand for them, are not called for to any considerable extent. Cocobolo and mahogany are the prevailing styles and rosewood is growing more in favor with the possibility, or the probability as Messrs. Lowenbein think, of eventually becoming the first choice with the fashionable world for parlors and bedrooms. For dining rooms oak prevails. Some beautiful work in antique style is shown, noticeable is a curved front sideboard in mahogany having a heavy beveled plate mirror. Among other things is a very neat dwarf oak book case with a coved alcove in the centre between the two shelves, closets for the books, and beneath the alcove a cupboard for larger books or atlas. There is also an oak mantel and over mantel, the shelf supported by very large solid pillars and the over mantel having numerous and innumerable small panes of beveled glass looking into closets, each just large enough to contain a short vase, a cup or a prettily decorated plate. The mode now is to extend the over mantel all the way to the frieze. Ebony and mahogany bric-a-brac stands, music stands, little fancy tables and pedestals of all sorts are shown in quantities. Illuminated leather forms the panels of some very handsome pieces of furniture, but these gentlemen think the material is too expensive ever to become very popular; those who can afford to do so will hardly care to indulge their taste at such cost. There is a pair of hall settles being made for a prominent gentleman in this city, covered with a Mexican leather of very rich workmanship.

Furniture.—NELSON, MATTER & Co. continue to favor black walnut; in fact this wood has been the most popular with this firm, and they have been constant in their faith in it. A new form of bedstead has been introduced by them; the ornamentation of the head-board comprises a rich panel very highly carved, and about the bedstead (and bureau as well) galleries or a frieze of brass are attached. The head and foot-board have a rolling top projecting slightly inward, partaking somewhat of the character of a canopy, though much smaller. A cheval glass and dressing case of cherry is a novelty in its way, and rather peculiar in its shape. A platform raised the height of the caster from the floor, has upon one side a long cheval glass and upon the adjoining side a low chiffonier of three or never more than four drawers. A dressing-glass upon an ebonized table-stand, and with ebonized frame and ornaments, has upon either side of the mirror proper, three small beveled glasses which serve as admirable adjuncts. Sideboards having only one shelf are more popular than the taller variety.

Wall Decoration.—In a previous issue we referred to a new material for wall decoration, introduced by ARTMAN & FECHTELER, of this city, which upon being applied in a soft and pliable condition, taking the form of any mold which may be desired, becomes in a very short time hard and indestructible. The qualities of this decorative substance have been put to an exacting test, by their application to a vestibule in Lafayette Place. The design chosen in this instance is particularly happy, showing a dado of leaves gracefully arranged in squares and protruding about half an inch from the wall itself. Four leaves form each square, their points meeting at a centre which is slightly higher than at the edges and with a tint counterfeiting nature most deceptively. Above the dado is a narrow band containing a bronze grape-vine, the leaves and fruit very sharp and clean cut, and winding about in a most naturalistic manner. The wall space between the dado and the ceiling has a ground work of an all-over design in simple curved lines, with here and there a bird flying or some smaller winged creature, in a graceful attitude. The frieze and ceiling are of brilliantly colored and cleverly arranged ornaments. The entire wall is firm, solid and indestructible, makes a beautiful appearance, and has a claim to novelty of effect.

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**OPINIONS OF REPRESENTA-
TIVE DEALERS.**

Bric-a-Brac.—PALM & FECHTELER have
some new and unique pieces of parlor de-
coration. A screen, for instance, or corner
stand, consists of an excellent imitation of
a turf with a portion of a mahogany picket
fence and gate rising from it. The gate is
padlocked with a steel hasp and lock and has
steel hinges, over the gate climbs a fox hav-
ing in his mouth a hare that he has evidently
caught in the garden from which he would
escape. A vine growing up upon either side
the gate adds to the delusion. The entire
thing is about five and a half feet tall. A
tripod from which to suspend a basket of
flowers, is made from a hoe, rake and flail
crossing each other near the top and having
a sickle carelessly attached at this crossing
point. Others are made of oars, sculls and
boat-hooks. A velvet plaque has a bunch of
flowers laid across it and "Seasons Greetings"
in silver or steel lettering. Frame for a
photograph is made of looking glass, having
upon one side of its face the square opening
to admit the card, while on the other is painted
a vine or branch extending up and over
the picture. The custom is introduced here
which has always existed in Paris, of attach-
ing a shade or globe to a candle by means of
a slight wire connected to the shade and ter-
minating in a ring that fits over the candle.
Pins for personal adornment are made in
great variety, the popular form taking that of
a huge spider, and others made up of antique
coins with the words "Roma," "Mizpah,"
etc., upon the slender bar which they sur-
round. Another pin represents the top of a
Roman standard with the letters S. P. Q. R.
Exhumed glassware, patarae lamps and im-
ages, Roman, Pompeian and Venetian swing-
ing lamps, sang de bœuf majolica jar, metal
plaque mounted on velvet and containing a
clock, old Satsuma plaques, tall flower vase
from deep purple at the top graduating to
light blue at bottom, oyster shell dishes and a
host of other things.

Parlor Furniture.—SHAW, APPLIN & Co.,
Boston, say that plush still has the preference
as a furniture covering, though they exhibit
some pleasing effects in jute velours, and in the
cheaper goods show suits in Ramie with plush
trimmings. In styles a partially over-stuffed
suit, and one showing a small centre panel in
plush, embroidered with silk in various colors,
were described as being very successful. An-
other suit consisted of sofa, corner chair, ladies
chair, rocker, and two common chairs, all of
which, excepting the latter, being of different
design, and making a very pleasing group. A
low backed, odd chair, upholstered in blue
plush and studded with a quantity of brass-
headed nails, was shown as a novelty, and we
are told it has become quite the thing to em-
broider some floral or other design in the upper
corners of these odd pieces.

Pottery.—A. H. HEWS & Co., N. Cam-
bridge, Mass., say the latest thing they have
gotten out is a reproduction of Barbotine ware,
or in other words, the formation in bold relief
of floral or other designs on the surface of the
pottery. As china decoration is somewhat
waning and the Barbotine ware when painted
in natural colors makes a very beautiful ap-
pearance, it is not improbable that its decoration
may succeed china in popular favor. The jars
and urns are made in a great variety of shapes,
enough it would seem to satisfy almost any taste.

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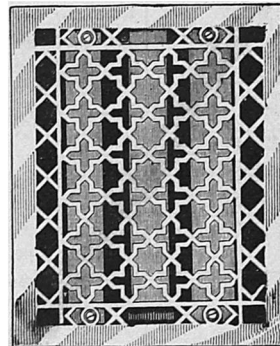
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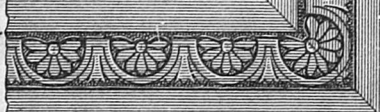
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OPINIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEALERS.

—*—

Upholsteries.—LOUIS WINDEMULLER & ROELKER say that the curtain material of the past, the stuffs and woolen fabrics, are now being replaced by silk to an extent that may almost be considered as rendering the woolens obsolete. The objection of expense, which has heretofore been a most serious one, is partly overcome by the introduction of a cheap silk that has much of the appearance of the costly article with a considerable saving in the outlay necessary to possess it. Nickled chains and those in imitation of bronze, are taking the place of the brass and gilt, but neither is used so generally as has been the custom. Concerning the prevailing colors Messrs. Windemuller & Roelker say that ecru is still the preference, although otherwise tints and half tints are being pretty thoroughly discarded. Designs, as we have said, have taken a variety of new shapes, armorial and fabulous especially, and have lost the fine all-over effects that gave some upholstery such a charming appearance. The disposition now is toward exaggerated patterns, showing naturally sized boughs and leaves and extended scrolls and arabesques.

Upholsteries.—HENRY L. HART & SONS run more particularly upon plushes and silk velours, claiming that the fashion will be to have each piece of upholstered furniture in the same room covered with a different pattern or different arrangement. Mohair plush is shown in great variety, and, it is said, is as thoroughly popular as it ever was. The custom of giving to rugs an effect approaching that of tapestries has extended pretty generally to furniture, and the great number of imitations of tapestry that are shown would certainly astonish one who failed to appreciate the demand that fashion creates for every phase of decoration. Flax velours for hangings are particularly artistic, and combined with Turcoman they certainly are all that could be desired in draperies. Plush of the most delicate blue, having stripes across what would cover the back and seat, is evidently the most popular color. The stripes are the same color as the body material, but slightly raised above the surface of the background. The striped materials that seem to be in favor for hangings have a slender thread of gold and silver cord between each stripe. Some very neat screens are also shown, one in particular having a panel of matting beautifully painted in floral and landscape designs. Another has a centre Watteau design of cretonne in each panel.

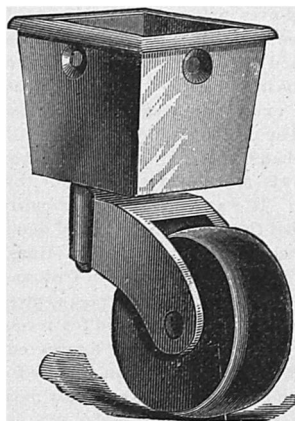
Parlor Furniture.—S. C. SMALL & Co., of Boston, are disposed to feel that the Turkish forms of furniture are coming more into favor, and to meet that anticipated demand they have made many unique designs, in this particular style. A plush covering is preferred, and every piece of furniture in a room is or should be entirely distinct from its companion pieces, in fact oddity of pattern is as much sought as at any time heretofore. In lodge furniture there is not much room for change, and although Messrs. Small & Co. have made several improvements in this kind of furniture, the advantages appear to be more in the mode of construction than the outward semblance, although we might casually notice the more effective and less violent manner of introducing the insignia or motto of the society. Church furniture may be classed in about the same list, and the novelties possible in that line are few and not noticeable. Small & Co. have quite recently opened new warerooms, and are making an unusually large and complete display.

Carpets.—M'CALLUM, CREASE & SLOAN, of Philadelphia, say the demand for carpets seem to be in the higher grade of goods, and their attention is almost exclusively occupied by the orders for the more expensive qualities. The cheaper class of carpets appear to be practically abandoned, and comparing the business of the current month with that of the corresponding month of last year, shows a very decided and marked increase.

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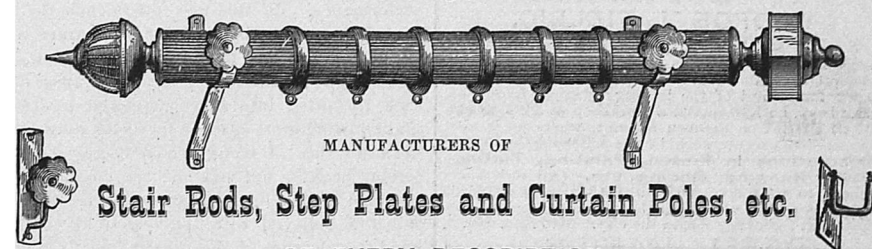
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